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ACTORS REVEAL WHAT PROPS THEY TOOK HOME FROM THE SET OF PETER JACKSON'S TRILOGY PAGE 17

New land-swap details 'troubling'

Fire hall. Administration at city hall 'wearing the pants,' while councillors walk around 'in diapers,' says CTF director while calling for an inquiry

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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More revelations related to real-estate deals at city hall show a need for an inquiry, said the Prairie director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Colin Craig told Metro he finds it "quite troubling" that a senior city manager signed a document related to the Taylor Avenue fire hall, but told CBC Manitoba six months later that he was "left out" of the deal.

The document, dated Feb. 7, 2012, and signed by Barry Thorgrimson, the city's former property and development director, is a letter of intent between the City of Winnipeg and Shindico Realty on the infamous land-swap deal that would have seen the city trade three properties for the land on which the Taylor fire hall sits.

This letter was made public during an expropriation hearing on the Taylor Avenue land that took place over the past couple of days at the Convention Centre.

Thorgrimson retired last Friday after a 40-year career with the city.

"I think the whole situation is quite troubling, and it's not just the fire hall expropriation component, but the entire alignment of activities at city hall that don't add up," said Craig.

"That is a huge problem at city hall. For years now, the administration has been wearing the pants and councillors have been walking around in diapers."

However, Craig doesn't just lay the blame at the feet of the city's administration. He said city council as a whole failed and the eight returning councillors played a part.

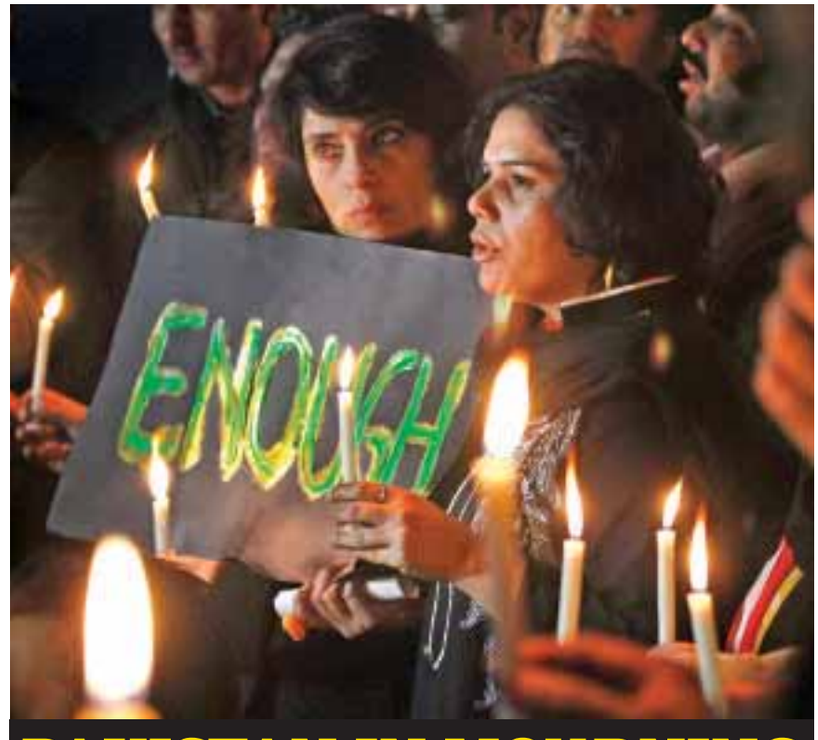
"The fire hall audit came out over a year ago, so council has had an entire year to question the member (Thorgrimson) of the administration who just left. So what have they been doing for the past year?" asked Craig.

"Did they ask him why it was that the media seems to have been left with the impression that he had no knowledge of this project when in fact he had signed one of the major documents concerning that transaction?

"If that was the message to media, what was the message to council? Were they left in a position where the situation wasn't clear?"

Craig, whose Canadian Taxpayers Federation normally shies away from inquiries, said one "should be considered" now.

Coun. Ross Eadie called for an inquiry last week.



PAKISTAN IN MOURNING

Pakistani civil society members take part in a candlelight vigil in Islamabad, Pakistan, for the victims of a school that was attacked by the Taliban in Peshawar. Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run school in the northwestern Pakistani city, killing more than 140 people, officials said, in the worst attack to hit the country in years. In Winnipeg, the local Pakistani community is reeling, and says there is little more they can do except pray. See stories, pages 7 and 13. ANJUM NAVEED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Inner city needs more help, and not just money: Report

Poverty, child welfare. Policy centre calls for better collaboration and new a perspective

SAMANTHA SAMSON
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A decade of research shows Winnipeg's inner city is slowly changing for the better, but more needs to be done in a variety of ways.

On Tuesday, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba released their 10th annual State of the Inner City report.

"We need to make it clear to all levels of government that they have a bigger role to play," said co-author Shauna MacKinnon. "Community-based organizations can't do it alone, even with funding. Although they continue to tell us differently, ending poverty is something the government can do if they have the political will and the guts to do it."

This year's report focuses on what has been accomplished in the inner city over the past decade and how community-based organizations play a key role in supporting families involved in the child-welfare system.

"We are all community today," said co-author Molly McCracken. "(We're all) concerned with the rising number of children in … the child-welfare system, a 60 per cent increase since 2005."

McCracken added that 87 per cent of the children in care are aboriginal.

The report's recommendations include long-term funding for holistic services and having child-welfare agencies collaborate with community-based organizations.

The report also emphasized an "anti-oppressive" approach, which McCracken said is meant to put people in control of their own healing journey.

"It's not blaming people for their circumstances," said McCracken. "It's recognizing that's where people are coming from, and we highlighted that because … it's really empowering to families."

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba report author Molly McCracken speaks to media on Tuesday. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Manslaughter added to charges against man, 44

Roseanne Lee Eaglestick, 23, was found dead in a Balmoral Street apartment in March. FACEBOOK

Police are now calling the suspicious death of a woman found in a Balmoral Street apartment in March a homicide, and a man has had manslaughter tacked on to his list of charges.

Roseanne Lee Eaglestick, 23, of Winnipeg, was found dead in a suite in the 200 block of Balmoral Street on the morning of March 17.

Police haven't publicly called her death a homicide until this week.

Eaglestick's common-law husband, Shane Darryl Quon, 44, had already been charged with forcible confinement and sexual assault in connection to her death.

Police hadn't publicly acknowledged either of the previous charges until this week, when additional charges of manslaughter, causing death by criminal negligence and failing to provide the necessaries of life to a child or spouse were laid against Quon.

Autopsy results show Eaglestick died from acute alcohol toxicity, police spokesperson Const. Eric Hofley said Tuesday, telling Metro it was Quon who called officers to the suite after her death.

Hofley wouldn't say exactly how police allege Quon was involved in Eaglestick's death, how Eaglestick had been confined or why it took investigators so long lay the additional charges. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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NDP. Selinger must pay to try to retain leadership

If an internal revolt and rock-bottom poll numbers weren't enough, embattled Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger found out Tuesday he'll have to pay to try to hang on to his job.

Leadership contest rules released by provincial NDP headquarters say Selinger and any other candidates will have to pay a $2,000 entry fee for a race that by all accounts is in uncharted political territory.

He'll also have to fill out an application for the job he already holds and get signatures of support for his nomination. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nominations

50

Leadership candidates must "submit a nomination form that is signed by 50 members in good standing of the Manitoba NDP," says the 54-page rule book.

Marilyn Manson

Where's my black lipstick again?

Marilyn Manson is coming to the MTS Centre for his Hell Not Hallelujah tour April 9.

Manson has a new album coming out Jan. 20 titled The Pale Emperor.

Tickets for the Winnipeg show go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. and are available through Ticketmaster. METRO

Club Regent Casino

Lea Salonga, Foreigner coming

The Casinos of Winnipeg has announced two concerts for 2015: Tony Award-winning songstress Lea Salonga, along with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (March 21), and popular rock act Foreigner (March 24 and 25).

Both shows are at Club Regent Casino. METRO

Province hops on board with local craft brewers

Growing the industry. New strategy from Manitoba government includes tap rooms to produce beer on site

EVAN MATTHEWS
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Tap rooms within local breweries may soon be coming to Manitoba.

Representatives from Half Pints Brewing Company, Farmery Estate Brewery and Fort Garry Brewing Co., along with Tourism Minister Ron Lemieux, unveiled their strategy to grow the craft beer industry Tuesday.

"It's more than just being about beer," said Lemieux. "What we're talking about is jobs and economic growth in an industry with huge potential. We grow the best barley in the world for beer, right here in Manitoba."

Lemieux, along with representatives from Winnipeg's three primary craft breweries, emphasized the need to work together.

"Very few times in my 15 years as cabinet minister have I seen people work so closely together in pulling this initiative all in the right directions."

Part of the province's new strategy involves tap rooms — generally a small room where customers can have a beer produced by a microbrewery on site, said Lemieux. Right now, craft breweries cannot serve open beer on site.

The launch of the new strategy builds on the introduction of growler bars in October. Growlers make opening a brewery easier by lowering overhead costs, according to the Half Pints website.

Dave Rudge, president of Half Pints Brewing Company, said their hope is to open a tap room in the spring.

Minister Ron Lemieux and Dave Rudge, president of Half Pints Brewing Company, speak to media Tuesday. EVAN MATTHEWS/FOR METRO

Manitobans ranked most charitable givers in Canada

Generosity Index. 25.4 per cent donated to registered charities in 2012, above the national average of 22.3 per cent

Manitobans once again top the list of most charitable givers in Canada, with more than a quarter of us donating to worthy causes.

The Fraser Institute's annual study, The 2014 Generosity Index, shows 25.4 per cent of Manitobans donated to registered charities in 2012. This is above the national average of 22.3 per cent.

However, charitable giving overall was on the decline across Canada. While the national average was 22.3 per cent, this is below the peak seen in 2005 of 25.1 per cent.

"Canadians are also donating a smaller percentage of their income to registered charities," reads a statement from the think-tank.

"In 2012, Canadians gave 0.61 per cent of their total income to registered charities, down from 0.81 per cent in 2006. Had Canadians donated in 2012 at the same rate as in 2006, Canada's charities would have received an additional $2.9 billion in 2012, for a potential total of $11.6 billion," said Charles Lammam, the study's co-author.

The least charitable province was Quebec, with 20.7 per cent donating. The three territories fared even worse, with the Yukon at 19.5 per cent, the North West Territories at 15.5 per cent and Nunavut at 9.3 per cent.

METRO

Money in a Salvation Army kettle. METRO FILE

CMHC survey. 'Peg rental apartment vacancy rate stays steady at 2.5 per cent

The rental apartment vacancy rate in Winnipeg is at 2.5 per cent in Oct. 2014, the same as it was during the same period last year, according to a survey released by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

The survey also found the average two-bedroom rent increased by about four per cent to $1,016.

The apartment vacancy rate ranged from zero to 3.5 per cent in various areas, with a higher rate in inner city zones of about three per cent and suburban areas at about two per cent.

Outside the city, rates are closer to eight per cent.

METRO

Condos

The rental condo vacancy rate across the city was about three per cent this year, compared to 1.5 per cent last year.

Whiteshell

Provincial park expansion announced

The Manitoba Government has announced plans to expand Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Park boundaries will be expanded to include 2,950 hectares of land and water, which increases the protected area within the park by 20,375 hectares, Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh said Tuesday.

This will raise the amount of protected land and water in the park from 35 per cent to 44 per cent.

"The park expansion and increased protection shows the government's commitment to protecting Manitoba's water, wetlands and forests," said Mackintosh in a release.

The expansion will also help protect the waters that flow between the park and the Whitemouth Bog, Mackintosh said, adding protecting the wetlands will also help clean water before it reaches Lake Winnipeg.

ADRIANA MINGO/FOR METRO

Andrea Giesbrecht

Bail hearing delayed again for woman accused of hiding infant remains

A woman accused of hiding the remains of six infants in a Winnipeg storage locker is to be back in court Friday after her bail hearing was delayed yet again.

The lawyer for Andrea Giesbrecht says he couldn't go ahead with a bail application because the Crown has not yet shared a complete autopsy report.

Greg Brodsky says autopsy results are needed to determine how the infants died and how old they were — including whether they were full term.

Giesbrecht, who is 40, is facing six charges of concealing the bodies, as well as unrelated fraud charges and a count of breaching a court order.

Brodsky has said if the remains turn out to be less than 20 weeks gestation, they would not be considered children under the law. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Humidity in your home in winter...

Controlling humidity in your home in winter can be a real balancing act. The ideal relative humidity for occupants, wood floors and furniture is 40 – 50 per cent However, when temperatures dip below -20 C, even the best, modern windows can experience condensation and icing at humidity levels above 30 per cent. If your blinds or curtains are closed, condensation can occur at even lower humidity levels.

For a healthier home environment in Manitoba, it's necessary to manage your home humidity levels within the lower range of 20-35 per cent during the coldest winter weather. The level you are able to maintain will depend on the quality of windows, insulation and air leakage rates in the home. Ventilation also plays an important role.

Whether your home is too humid or too dry, consider the following information.

To reduce humidity:

- turn humidifiers down or off
- don't hang wet clothes indoors to dry
- always vent the clothes dryer to the outdoors
- run the exhaust fan while in the shower or bath and run it for an extra 10-15 minutes afterwards. Better yet, install a timer switch to do this automatically
- exhaust fans should vent to the outdoors (make sure the vent hood is not blocked)
- if you don't have exhaust fans, consider installing them or a heat recovery ventilator (HRV).

To raise the humidity:

- seal and weather-strip your home to reduce air leakage. Cold, dry air from outdoors soaks up humidity. Reducing drafts also improves comfort, lowers your heating bills and may even reduce or eliminate the need for a humidifier
- don't over-ventilate. Operating an exhaust fan or HRV more than necessary can dry out your home and increase your energy costs
- use a portable humidifier or furnace humidifier (on a forced-air heating system) **only** after all sealing and weather stripping attempts have been made.

To help you achieve the right level of humidity in your home, visit **www.hydro.mb.ca/your_home/resources** for copies of our Power Smart* Guides 1, 2, 5, and 8.

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Former religious lobby director to run for PCs

James Teitsma. Once served on board of Christian anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ policy group

A former board member with a religious lobby group that opposes same-sex marriage and abortion is running for the Manitoba Progressive Conservatives in the next provincial election.

James Teitsma says he wants to represent all residents in his constituency and will not push the agenda of his former group.

Teitsma was acclaimed in September as the Tory candidate in the Radisson constituency in east Winnipeg.

Before that, he was a director with the Association for Reformed Political Action, or ARPA, a national group aiming to bring a Christian biblical perspective to politics. The group has protested abortion, fought against same-sex marriage and lobbied against a provincial law that requires schools to allow support groups for gay students.

Who are the ARPA?

Last year, the group organized a letter-writing campaign against a bill that proposed that Manitoba schools must accommodate students wanting to establish gay-straight alliances. The group said the bill, which has since become law, was unfair to religious schools that do not condone homosexuality.

Teitsma says he is not running for election so he can represent ARPA, and will work within the Tory caucus if elected.

"I'm going to take my own beliefs and viewpoints, and more importantly I'm going to be listening to Manitobans. So if I hear at the door, when I'm door-knocking through the riding, if I hear something that happens to coincide with an ARPA position, obviously then I'm going to take that," he said Monday.

James Teitsma COURTESY PCRADISSON.CA

"But I recognize that ARPA Canada's viewpoints are representative of only a subset of Canadians and I need to listen to everyone."

ARPA was most recently in the news for planting 100,000 small flags on the lawn of Parliament Hill to call for restrictions on abortion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

17%. Selinger's approval rating at historic low: Poll

A new opinion poll suggests Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger's approval rating is at an all-time low.

Only 17 per cent of respondents to the Angus Reid survey said they approve of Selinger's performance.

That is down from 30 per cent from a similar poll in September.

Selinger has been fending off a revolt by some caucus members, including five former cabinet ministers who resigned their portfolios last month.

Selinger appeared unfazed by the numbers.

"I'm focused on continuing to govern this province. I'm focused on Manitobans' priorities," he said in a written statement.

His spokesman, Paul McKie, said the poll was "not a surprise, as it was taken during an unsettled time in the party."

Angus Reid surveyed 800 Manitobans between Dec. 4 and 13 as part of an online panel.

Greg Selinger THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The polling industry's professional body, the Marketing Research and Intelligence Association, says online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error as they are not a random sample, and therefore are not necessarily representative of the whole population.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Peshawar. Attack shocks Pakistani community

The Pakistani community in Winnipeg is in shock after an attack in Peshawar left 141 people — mostly children — dead Tuesday.

"This is not just the killing of Pakistan or Muslim children, it's an attack on humanity," said Dr. Naseer Warraich, chairmen of the Association of Pakistani Canadians.

About 141 people died when heavily armed Taliban militants stormed a military-run school in northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar. The attack reportedly left more than 100 other people injured.

The Winnipeg Pakistani community is experiencing shock and grief over the attacks, but there's little they can do but pray, said Warraich.

Warraich said he worries about the safety of his sister, niece, and other family and friends who are currently living there.

"There's safety issue (there) all the time. People will go out, but they don't know if they'll come back," he said. "These children — their parents get them ready to go to school — after two hours they were dead."

Pakistan has experienced several Taliban-related suicide bombings this year.

"Who is killing the children? This is not humanity. This is not any religion," said Warraich, adding that these are not the teachings of Islam.

ADRIANA MINGO/FOR METRO

Quoted

"Who is killing the children? This is not humanity. This is not any religion."

Dr. Naseer Warraich, chairmen of the Association of Pakistani Canadians.

Student victims

132

Of the 141 people slain, 132 were children and nine were staff members. Another 121 students and three staff members were wounded.

Posting videos of thieves not always best idea: Cops

Caught on tape. Videos going viral may actually jeopardize investigations

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

With surveillance cameras becoming a more common sight around Winnipeg homes and garages — and new videos of thieves caught in the act seeming to go viral every week — police have a few tips on how homeowners can use the technology to their advantage.

While images of criminals caught red-handed are obviously invaluable to investigators, police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen told Metro rushing to upload video of thieves breaking into your garage isn't always the best way to catch the bad guys.

Eye See Computers and Security Cameras CEO Don Cairns says as the cost of video surveillance equipment drops he's seen an increase in the number of homeowners buying cameras. Police warn about rushing to upload videos of criminals caught in the act. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

"We caution members of the public about posting it immediately prior to maybe speaking to investigators, because we want to work as a team," said Michalyshen, explaining police sometimes hold off on releasing photos and video of suspects publicly until all other avenues of investigation are exhausted. "By posting that video online ... what we're doing is sharing with the criminal element, or the suspects involved, what we know.

"They could very quickly get rid of the stolen property or make unique efforts to change their appearance."

Michalyshen said victims of crime who also have video of the thieves should first report it to police and then talk to investigators about what to do with the video. "There's a number of things that we think about that members of the public may not," he said.

Don Cairns, CEO Eye See Computers and Security Cameras, said the cost of surveillance equipment has dropped by 50 per cent over the last two years, which has led to a "huge" increase in the number of Winnipeggers buying cameras for their homes at his store.

Reserve can't hold fire inspections: Chief

Unfeasible. Leader says choice is either to turn a blind eye to code violations or risk mass evictions

The chief of a northern Manitoba reserve where a baby girl died in a house fire said his band can't afford to have its homes inspected for fire hazards.

Chief David McDougall of St. Theresa Point First Nation told an inquest into the girl's death that the band essentially has to choose between turning a blind eye or have homes inspected and risk mass evictions.

"We'd end up condemning all the homes because of poor maintenance, poor workmanship," McDougall told the inquest Tuesday.

Quoted

"To inspect those units would mean removing everyone from their homes."

Chief David McDougall of St. Theresa Point First Nation, adding that the reserve wouldn't have the money to accommodate everyone in case of a mass eviction.

Many homes still rely on wood stoves, others aren't built to handle electrical heaters, he said. New homes are built with hard-wired smoke detectors and central heating, but there is a chronic shortage of housing on the reserve, McDougall said.

The band doesn't have the money to upgrade older houses, so many people are afraid to have them inspected.

"To do it or not to do it; it's a tough call."

An inquest, which is to conclude this week in Winnipeg, is examining the deaths of three children and one adult in two separate fires on northern reserves in 2011.

Five children escaped a fire in St. Theresa Point in January 2011, which started in the chimney, but two-month-old Errabella Harper died.

A second fire about two months later in God's Lake Narrows, started by an outdated space heater, killed Demus James and his two grandchildren, Throne Kirkness, 2, and Kayleigh Okemow, 3.

The inquest has heard how, in both fires, neighbours fought the flames in vain with buckets of water carried from the community's fire trucks and low-pressure hoses similar to garden hoses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The swollen Assiniboine River covers farmland along Grand Valley Road west of Brandon, Man., last summer. TIM SMITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Flood watch. Rivers above normal, say forecasters

Flood forecasters in Manitoba say most major rivers and lakes are at above normal water levels for this time of year.

They say soil moisture conditions are also higher than normal.

Water-watchers are keeping a close eye on the Assiniboine, Qu'Appelle and Souris river basins in particular.

They say those watersheds could see major flooding next spring if there is a fast melt or heavy rain.

They say that could happen even with normal winter precipitation.

A number of factors are considered in making long-term predictions for potential floods or droughts, and Infrastructure Minister Steve Ashton cautions it's much too early to say what may happen next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

At University of Winnipeg

Man faces sex assault charges in groping incident

A man from outside Winnipeg is facing sexual assault charges after a woman was groped at the University of Winnipeg earlier this month.

The 23-year-old woman was heading up the escalators at the school just before noon Dec. 3 when an unknown man came up from behind and grabbed her in the lower body, then left.

On Monday police arrested Joshua James Wapash, 22, of Libau, Man., and charged him with sexual assault. METRO

Snow brainer

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School delays exams due to online abuse

Dalhousie University has postponed exams at its dentistry school and launched an investigation after sexually violent comments were posted on a social media site about female students at the Halifax school.

University president Richard Florizone said Tuesday that the school has a responsibility to ensure it is free of harassment and it is looking at a range of options to deal with the allegations. "People are deeply disappointed and concerned," he said following a meeting with deans at the school. "People find the language and the conversation entirely unacceptable."

The school said the comments were reportedly shared on a Facebook page, which has since been taken down. He said a complaint was brought to his attention by a student within the past week and it was being dealt with under the school's harassment policy. But Florizone said he became more involved when more information became public Monday.

Florizone said the school has postponed remaining fourth-year exams in the faculty of dentistry and will reschedule them in January, citing anxiety among students that has been caused by the Facebook page.

The university said it is talking to both those who were involved in creating the page and women who were featured on it. But Florizone said it wasn't yet clear what the consequences might be for the dentistry students who created it.

In its students' code of conduct, penalties for violating set behavioural expectations range from a warning to a suspension or expulsion.

Jackie Stevens of the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre in Halifax said the postings were particularly disturbing because they involved male students degrading their female peers.

She called on Dalhousie to take the incident seriously and look at the safety of students in the program while trying to increase respect for women in the faculty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They're specifically targeting certain women and they're talking about inciting sexualized violence and degradation on specific women."

Jackie Stevens of the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre

Yannick Gagne stands in the new Musi-Café under construction in Lac-Mégantic, Que., on June 11. The restaurant-bar at ground zero of the deadly train derailment and explosion that killed 47 people in July 2013 is back in business. The Musi-Café quietly opened its doors to the public Monday in a new location, about 400 metres from the original site.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Closure.' Give mom Silver Cross for her son: Petition

The mother of a Canadian soldier who was sent a one-penny government cheque after her son killed himself following a tour of duty in Afghanistan deserves a Memorial Cross, supporters say in a new petition.

They say it is unfair for military authorities to refuse to award Denise Stark the medal — often called the Silver Cross — for what they see as the service-related loss of Cpl. Justin Stark, 22, who was a reserve soldier who served seven months in Afghanistan.

In October 2011, 10 months after his return to Canada, he killed himself at the John Weir Foote Armouries in Hamilton.

"It would be a sense of a closure, which we don't have, knowing that Justin's service would be recognized — a recognition that I feel is long overdue," Stark told The Canadian Press Tuesday.

"It's time for the government to step up and just do the right thing."

The petition calls on government officials, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to intervene in what they call the "gross injustices" perpetrated on the family.

A board of inquiry concluded in March that his tour in Afghanistan did not cause post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which contributed to his suicide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Medical pot. Feds lose bid to limit growing at home

The Conservative government has lost its latest attempt to prevent medical marijuana users from growing pot at home, with the Federal Court of Appeal upholding an injunction that exempted patients from a massive overhaul of the system.

New rules were introduced this year prohibiting home-growing and instead shifted production to commercial operations, but some patients are challenging that regime in a case to be heard in 2015.

A Federal Court judge issued an injunction in the spring allowing authorized patients to continue to grow and possess marijuana until their case is resolved. The government appealed, but the Appeal Court unanimously upheld the injunction on Monday.

As of last year, nearly 38,000 Canadians had received authorization under the old system; most chose to grow their own marijuana rather than through the government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Better representation

Canada wants more women on money: Survey

The results of a new online survey suggest many Canadians would like to see women better represented on bank notes.

The Bank of Canada poll asked for input on how bills could best reflect the country. Responses included more gender equality and a better celebration of women. The questionnaire comes after women's groups criticized the central bank for removing the Famous Five on the $50 note in the most recent series of bills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Luka Rocco Magnotta

Jury ends first day without a verdict

The jury at Luka Rocco Magnotta's murder trial ended its first day of deliberations without a verdict.

Magnotta is charged with first-degree murder and four other charges in the slaying of Chinese engineering student Jun Lin in May 2012.

Magnotta has pleaded not guilty by way of mental disorder and is seeking to be found not criminally responsible. Jurors will return to their deliberations Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Musi-Café reopens near old location

Lac-Mégantic. Restaurant located near the site of the Quebec train disaster is open for business once again

The restaurant-bar at ground zero of the deadly train derailment and explosion that killed 47 people in Quebec in July 2013 is back in business.

The Musi-Café quietly opened its doors to the public in Lac-Mégantic on Monday, about 400 metres from the original site.

Owner Yannick Gagne said only three of his original employees have returned to work with him at his new establishment.

"One of them is my chef, a friend," he told The Canadian Press in a phone interview.

"I have a girl who worked for me for three or four years — she's coming back — and one of my good friends, Karine Blanchette, will handle all the artists who will come here."

At the time of the disaster, Blanchette told reporters two children were left orphans after one of her friends died in the tragedy.

Many of the 47 victims were inside the Musi-Café when a runaway oil-tanker train rolled off the tracks and exploded in the heart of the town.

Gagne lost three workers in the blast and about a dozen have decided not to come back to work with him.

He now has a staff of about 20, which is five more employees than before.

Gagne also said that on Monday, not a lot of people showed up during the morning and that there was also a small crowd at lunch.

He added he believes the locals probably assumed the new place would be crowded.

Gagne, who had financing problems in the past, said the new restaurant-bar will cost $1.5 million when all the bills are finally paid.

But he is getting financial help.

"We have had confirmation that the federal government will be there to help us," he said.

"The provincial government has provided a loan, a financial bridge (and) we'll be able to finish the project and pay everybody."

Gagne is planning an official "red carpet and champagne" opening in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers comb through debris after a train derailed on July 9, 2013, causing explosions of railway cars carrying crude oil, killing 47 people as a result.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Australian leaders ask how gunman with violent history remained at large

Deadly siege. Man Haron Monis was out on bail when he took 17 people hostage Monday

A girl lays flowers at a makeshift memorial Tuesday near the site where a gunman held hostages for 16 hours at a cafe in Sydney, Australia. STEVE CHRISTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horror over a deadly incident transformed into anger Tuesday as leaders of a grieving nation demanded to know how a man with a violent criminal history slipped through the cracks and ended up in the downtown Sydney café where he took 17 people hostage.

The 16-hour siege ended in a barrage of gunfire and screams early Tuesday morning when police stormed into the Lindt Chocolat Café in a desperate bid to free the hostages. Two of the hostages were killed, as was the gunman, Man Haron Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born self-styled cleric described by Australia's prime minister as a deeply disturbed person carrying out a "sick fantasy."

"How can someone who has had such a long and checkered history not be on the appropriate watch list? And how can someone like that be entirely at large in the community?" Prime Minister Tony Abbott asked at a news conference.

"These are questions we need to look at carefully and calmly and methodically. That's what we'll be doing in the days and weeks ahead."

"We are all outraged that this guy was on the street," New South Wales Premier Mike Baird said. "We need to ensure that everything is done to learn from this."

Monis was convicted and sentenced last year to 300 hours of community service for sending what a judge called "grossly offensive" letters to families of soldiers killed in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2009. He later was charged with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife. Earlier this year, he was charged with the 2002 sexual assault of a woman. He had been out on bail on all the charges.

The siege began when Monis walked into the café during Monday morning rush hour, trapping 17 customers and staffers inside. He had some of the hostages record videos of themselves reciting his demands: to be delivered a flag of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and to speak directly with Abbott.

The siege ended early Tuesday with a barrage of gunfire that left two hostages — Katrina Dawson, a 38-year-old lawyer and mother of three, and Tori Johnson, the café's 34-year-old manager — and the gunman dead. Officials have yet to say whether the two hostages died in crossfire as police stormed in or were shot by their captor.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hawaii

Lava to hit town in seven to 10 days

Lava is about a mile from a shopping centre in Pahoa, Hawaii, County Civil Defence Director Darryl Oliveira said Monday. The lava could smother one structure in the complex or cover them all, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sierra Leone

Ebola search to start Wednesday

House-to-house searches for hidden Ebola cases are set to begin Wednesday in the Sierra Leone capital and nearby areas, which account for more than half of the country's new Ebola infections.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Bank

Palestinian killed during Israeli op

Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian man as violence erupted during an arrest operation in the West Bank on Tuesday, the military said.

It said Palestinians in the refugee camp of Qalandiya, north of Jerusalem, threw explosive charges and opened fire at soldiers during the operation and that they responded with fire of their own, killing one man and wounding another. Palestinian medical officials identified the man as 20-year-old Mahmoud Abdalla.

In another development Tuesday, Israeli police say they arrested 10 members of a Jewish extremist group following an intensive investigation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania

Wanted ex-Marine commits suicide

An Iraq War veteran suspected of killing his ex-wife and five of her relatives was found dead of self-inflicted knife wounds Tuesday in the woods, ending a day-and-a-half manhunt that closed suburban Philadelphia schools and left people on edge.

Bradley William Stone's body was discovered a half-mile from his Pennsburg home, about 48 kilometres northwest of Philadelphia.

Stone, 35, went on a shooting rampage Monday at three homes a few miles apart, authorities said.

It's the second major manhunt to transfix Pennsylvania in recent months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pakistani girl, who was injured in a Taliban attack in a school, is rushed to a hospital on Tuesday in Peshawar, Pakistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban kills 141 at school in Pakistan

Peshawar. Deadly attack at military-run school being claimed by a group called Tehreek-e-Taliban

Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run school in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday, killing 141 people, mostly children, before Pakistani officials declared a military operation to clear the school over.

The overwhelming majority of the victims were students at the school, which instructs grades 1 through 10. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the assault and rushed to Peshawar to show his support for the victims.

As darkness fell on the area, officials said they had cleared the school of militants.

A Pakistani military spokesman, Asim Bajwa, said 141 people died in the attack — 132 children and nine staff members. He declared the operation over and said the area had been cleared. An additional 121 students and three staff members were wounded.

He said seven attackers, all wearing explosives vests, all died in the assault. It was not immediately clear if the militants were all killed by the soldiers or whether they blew themselves up, he said.

Bajwa described an assault that seemed designed purely to terrorize the children rather than take anyone hostage to further the militant group's aims.

"Their sole purpose, it seems, was to kill those innocent kids," he said.

The attack, claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban, a Pakistani militant group trying to overthrow the government, sent the wounded flooding to hospitals.

A Taliban spokesman said suicide bombers carried out the attack to avenge killings of Taliban members by Pakistan.

The scene of the attack is part of a network of schools run by the Pakistani military around the country. The student body is made up of both children of military personnel as well as civilians.

A government official, Javed Khan, said most of the students appeared to be civilians rather than children of army staff. However, analysts said the militants likely targeted the school because of its military connections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Heartbroken'

Malala Yousafzai says she is "heartbroken" over the attack on a school in Pakistan. "Innocent children in their school have no place in horror such as this," said the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

- Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed that the country would not be cowed by the violence.

Jeb Bush exploring presidential bid

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush announced Tuesday he will "actively explore" a campaign for president, an early move that could pre-empt some other Republicans with White House aspirations in the bidding for big donations and public support.

In a holiday message posted on Bush's Facebook page and Twitter account, the son and brother of past Republican presidents said he discussed the "future of our nation" and a potential bid for the White House with members of his family over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"As a result of these conversations and thoughtful consideration of the kind of strong leadership I think America needs, I have decided to actively explore the possibility of running for president of the United States," Bush wrote.

The announcement by Bush, who is among the more moderate potential candidates, is sure to reverberate throughout Republican politics and begin to help sort out a field that includes more than a dozen potential candidates, none of whom have formally announced plans to mount a campaign.

In the race for the Democrats, Hillary Clinton, who has not yet declared, appears to be the early favourite.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush
SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Angry lawsuit to go ahead

Artist Juli Adams poses in her home and studio in Seattle in this Aug. 5 file photo, with one of her original drawings that a line of plush pet toys called "Angry Birds" was based on, and a copy of her licensing agreement with the Hartz Mountain Corporation. A U.S. federal judge has refused to dismiss her lawsuit, which argues Adams was cheated out of millions of dollars when the company that sold her line of Angry Birds toys reached a deal with the Finnish company that makes the insanely popular video game of the same name. Adams designed the Angry Birds toys in 2006 for the Hartz Mountain Corp., a New Jersey-based pet products company. Three years later, she says in her lawsuit, Hartz licensed her intellectual property to game-maker Rovio Entertainment without telling her.

TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Privacy commissioner targets app policies

Data market. Developers gather personal data more valuable than sales

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro in Toronto

On Tuesday, Canada's privacy commissioner added his voice to a growing chorus asking mobile app stores to highlight how developers use data collected from customers.

Federal privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien was among 23 signatories to an open letter sent to seven app marketplaces, including Google Play and the Apple App Store. The letter urged merchants to make it mandatory for developers that sell apps in their stores to include links to their privacy policies.

"Links to privacy policies on the app marketplace appear to be optional, but we think developers that collect personal information should be required to provide a link," Therrien said in a release. "Without this information, it's difficult for individuals to provide meaningful consent."

Federal privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A recent study by Therrien's office found 85 per cent of mobile apps failed to explain adequately how they collect, use and share data collected from users.

"Developers are asking for information they have no real business accessing," said Christopher Parsons, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab. "If a flashlight app is asking to read your SMS messages, that's a step too far."

According to Parsons, many app developers participate in a "grey market" of personal information.

"The value is not in selling apps," he said. "The value is in collecting information about individuals and then turning around and selling it to third parties."

Requiring developers to include privacy plans alongside their apps "is a step in the right direction," Parsons said, but many policies are written in "boilerplate legalese," meaning even if they're available, many consumers won't be able to interpret them.

"What commissioners could do is say that if you're going to develop a privacy policy ... you should be providing a simple, accessible version of what you're doing," he said.

Ban on powdered alcohol considered

Powdered alcohol hasn't even arrived in stores yet, but states already are moving to ban the product touted by its inventor as an easy way to mix a drink on the go.

Colorado is the latest state considering prohibiting "Palcohol" amid concern it will increase underage drinking. The product is marketed as an ounce of rum or vodka in powdered form, which is then added to water.

Each serving is the equivalent of a shot of liquor, according to Lipsmark, the company that owns Palcohol.

Banned in some states

Alaska, Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina and Vermont already have banned powdered alcohol, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"I think being proactive and jumping out in front of the problem is probably the right thing to do," said Chris Johnson, executive director of the County Sheriffs of Colorado. "It really doesn't have any place in our society, powered alcohol. We have enough problems with the liquid kind."

The company's website notes various instances where they argue the product would be convenient, including on flights and as an antiseptic on remote locations.

Palcohol's creator, Mark Phillips, said he thought of the idea because it would be easier to carry powder for a drink during a long hike or other outdoor activities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sony hack

Hackers threaten moviegoers

Hackers calling themselves Guardians of Peace made ominous threats Tuesday against movie theatres showing Sony Pictures' film The Interview, urging people to leave their homes if located near theatres showing the film.

The Interview is a comedy in which two television journalists become involved in a CIA plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

iSue

Apple wins antitrust lawsuit

A U.S. District Court jury in California found in favour of Apple on Tuesday in a billion-dollar class-action lawsuit over the price of its iPod music players.

The jury rejected claims that Apple's use of restrictive software amounted to anticompetitive behaviour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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VOICES

SELFIES IN A TIME OF TRAGEDY

It's a predictable scenario: A tragic situation occurs, such as this week's hostage crisis in Sydney. Someone takes a selfie. Public outrage follows. But as Metro's Andrew Fifield writes, our discomfort with the selfie in times of trouble may have more to do with us than it does with some inherent moral failure of those who take the images

ANDREW FIFIELD
readers@metronews.ca

Events such as this week's tragedy in a Sydney café unfold in a depressingly familiar way.

Reports trickle out that something awful may be happening, but details are scarce, so we turn to social media for witnesses and those affected to fill in the gaps.

That's when the disaster selfies inevitably appear.

Some of the selfie snappers flash radiant smiles. Some of them look sufficiently solemn. All of them are criticized for making a mockery of tragedy, and that criticism is often off the mark.

Much of that criticism takes root in a misunderstanding that many, primarily older, people have about the selfie's relatively recent rise, namely that it's an inherently vain and narcissistic act.

That's absurd. Selfies are snapped for a laundry list of reasons: sharing a new shirt with friends, a wry reaction to the news, a quick self-esteem boost or a self-deprecating gag. And, yes, sometimes ego.

Whatever the reasons behind their creation, selfies have diffused into our always-changing culture. And many people are more comfortable accepting a stereotype of a self-absorbed generation with few goals outside of serial frivolity than they are with accepting that culture dares a shift without checking in with them first.

The former camp is home to the loudest voices condemning disaster selfies. If one already holds a view that selfies are little more than a self-administered ego stroke, that sticks to the image itself. The preconceived notions of the person viewing it colour the motivations of the person who took it.

Strip away the emotion and what you have are witnesses capturing an event unfolding before their eyes. By putting themselves in the frame, they're providing an index. They're documenting their lives, just as they always do — except this time, their lives overlap with a painful public event and when an information-starved media outlet picks it up, they're condemned for seeking a level of attention they never asked for.

Of course, there is a conversation to be had about taste, and rebukes aimed at more gleeful subjects are well-earned. And of course, some disaster selfie subjects may one day feel ashamed. Some of them may apologize. A few of them may even mean it.

But the instant anger and its accompanying judgment of the photographer's intention are unfair and can promote the harm critics say they're trying to prevent.

Consider this: Every autumn, a certain generation devotes a chunk of November to mourning the loss of an assassinated U.S. president. Within that chunk is much misty reminiscence about where they were, who they were with, how they reacted ... even what they were wearing. The vast majority of them were nowhere near the shots. They're inserting themselves into the event.

Sound familiar? People vividly illustrating scenes of public trauma while putting themselves in the frame? The biggest difference is they're relying on memory — the only ubiquitous documentary tool available at the time.

It's a selfie without the technology.

Are those people simply relaying their views of history, as witnessed? Or are they representative of an irreparably narcissistic generation clinging to dwindling shreds of an era when culture put them front and centre?

There could be a lot to learn by answering that question.

Mine

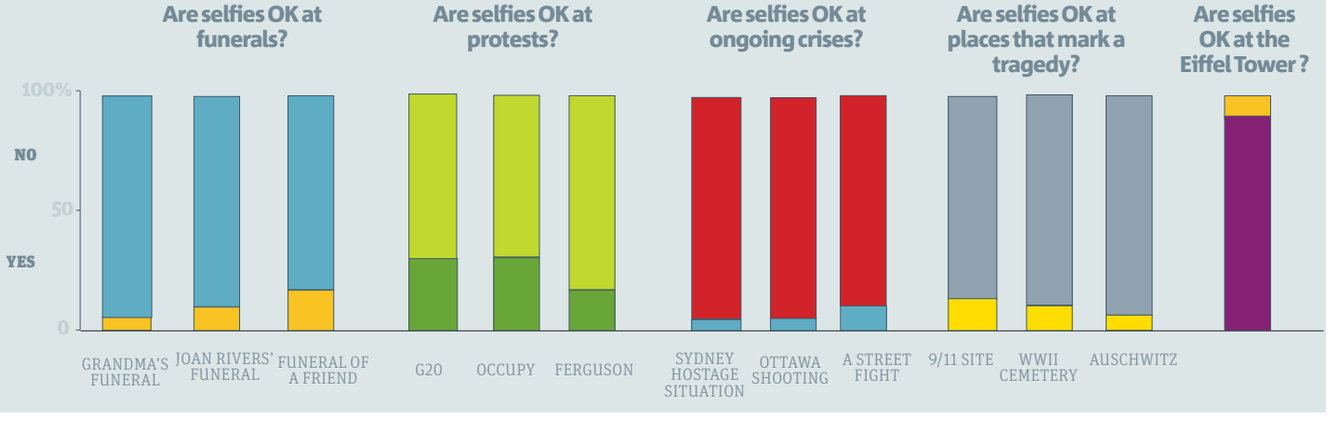
Selfie as digital stamp

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
readers@metronews.ca

This is mine. My face is in it, see? In the lawless world of the Internet, selfies might be the only way to ensure others don't take credit for your images.

Photos posted online instantly become public property, even when photographers do their best to protect them. As a newspaper editor, I have seen watermarks skilfully removed, copyrighted images intentionally and unintentionally shared, and been in arguments over who receives credit for an image. Selfies remind me of sharing my childhood dinner table with two brothers. If you wanted a specific cut of meat, you had to lick it. This was considered so gross it ended all arguments and the meat became yours. Selfies have that same kind of influence. Hate them all you want, but selfies are the new digital signature.

We asked you:



Controversial selfies

- A woman made the front page of the New York Post last year for taking a selfie with a suicidal man being rescued from the Brooklyn Bridge behind her.
- A TV news reporter was fired for asking Anderson Cooper for a selfie at the scene of the Ottawa cenotaph shooting in October.
- Not even Obama is safe. He received scorn for posing for a selfie with the Danish and U.K. PMs at Nelson Mandela's funeral.

metro

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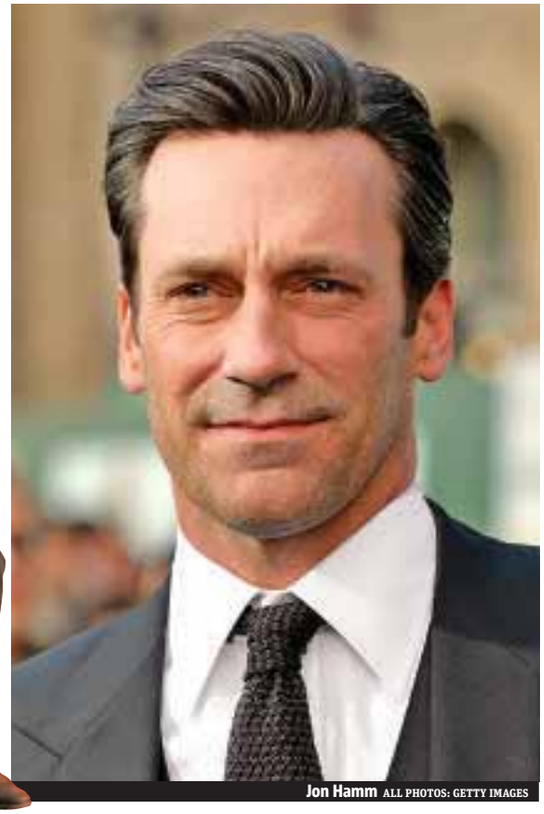
SCENE 2

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Jon Hamm ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Mad man's no Superman: Jon snubs superhero gigs

With the glut of comic book movies coming out of the Marvel and DC universes — with extensive releases already slated through 2020 — it's kind of surprising that lantern-jawed, deep-voiced Mad Men star Jon Hamm hasn't donned some tights by now. Well, it turns out it has not been for lack of trying on the studios' parts. Hamm tells the Radio Times that he's "been in contention for quite a few" superhero films over the last few years, but has passed on them all.

"The deals that they make (actors) do are so draconian," Hamm explains. "And of course you are signed on for not only the movie that you are signed on for … but at least two more that you haven't read and you have no idea what they are going to be and all the crossover ones you are going to have to do."

OK, fine. But now at least we can have fun speculating which roles he turned down. And no fair saying "all of them." Let's get creative here.

Maisie Williams

Fantasy franchise feminism fracas!

Looking for someone to take issue with Harry Potter star Emma Watson's UN address about feminism?

Well, Game of Thrones star Maisie Williams is happy to serve. The 17-year-old tells the Guardian that she's impatient with such "first-world feminism" and is looking to do more.

"A lot of what Emma Watson spoke about, I just think, 'That doesn't bother me,'" Williams says. "I know things aren't perfect for women in the U.K. and in America, but there are women in the rest of the world who have it far worse."

Your move, Hermione.

Amy's near-tears apology leaked by Sony staff

With more leaked emails hitting the web every day, it should come as no surprise that Sony chief Amy Pascal gathered her employees this week at the studio's Culver City, Calif. lot to address the ongoing hacking scandal.

And it also shouldn't come as a surprise that we know about the apology because someone snuck out audio of it.

"It devastates me that something I did or said in a second would hurt any one of you and for that I am profoundly sorry," a "near tears" Pascal told staffers during a pair of meetings Monday, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Amy Pascal

At least one employee seemed mollified, telling the trade, "Amy made what sounded like a serious apology."

Jennifer Lee

Frozen director so sorry you just can't Let It Go

Parents, Frozen director Jennifer Lee feels your pain — and she's so, so sorry that she's unwittingly had a hand in inflicting it upon you. "A year ago, I'd meet people who when they found out who I was they'd say, 'Oh, we love the songs! We sing them all the time,'" Lee tells the Hollywood Reporter. "Now they're like, 'Yep, we're still listening to those songs.' I've gone from, 'Thank you' to, 'Sorry!'"

Bond mixes martinis with marketing

Bond purists, rejoice. Belvedere Vodka has reportedly signed a multimillion-dollar product placement deal with Sony Pictures — and we didn't even find out via a leaked email! — to feature Daniel Craig's super-spy sipping their martinis in next year's Spectre, currently filming in London.

This wouldn't normally be news except that many 007 fans are still sore from the sight of Bond slugging back a Heineken in Skyfall.

Daniel Craig

Hobbit actors by the props they keep

Movies. Martin Freeman bagged Bilbo ears as The Hobbit trilogy wrapped

IN REVIEW
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Martin Freeman as head Hobbit Bilbo Baggins. CONTRIBUTED

The release of The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies brings Peter Jackson's trilogy to a close, and marks the end of a life immersed in Middle Earth for the actors. For several of the cast, it was a years-long journey, and like any trip it's nice to pick up a souvenir as a keepsake.

According to director Peter Jackson, the actor who played the exiled dwarf king Thorin stole "the most boring thing in the world to steal," from the set of the penultimate film, The Desolation of Smaug: socks.

"I did steal every single pair of costume socks," said Richard Armitage, "because we were given a brand new pair every day."

As production on The Battle of the Five Armies wrapped, Armitage was gifted with some more interesting props including the deadly goblin cleaver Orcrist, which he keeps in an umbrella stand, "'cause I want to be able to pick it up."

Martin Freeman, who plays head Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, says he doesn't miss making the films — "I'm really proud to have done it," he says, "and I'm really glad to have done it, but I rarely miss jobs" — but kept his sword and prosthetic ears as mementos.

Unlike Freeman, Sir Ian McKellen does get sentimental when he reflects on making the movies because, "a lot of the audience seeing The Hobbit Part Three wouldn't have been born when we started filming it." After spending 13 years playing wise wizard Gandalf the Grey, he took two priceless props from the set, "Gandalf's staff, which I keep with umbrellas and walking sticks, and Gandalf's hat, which I keep in the basement."

Many actors have pilfered props from their movies. Keira Knightley walked off with Elizabeth Bennet's striped socks from Pride & Prejudice. Elijah Wood has the One Ring from Lord of the Rings and Daniel Radcliffe liberated two pairs of Harry Potter's famous round glasses, even though there was a strict policy about taking props from the set.

'The ones from the first film are absolutely tiny now," he says, "but they are very sweet."

Kristen Stewart kept the engagement ring Edward Cullen gave her at the end of Twilight: Eclipse, and Zachary Quinto took the ears he wore as Spock in Star Trek: Into Darkness, but the strangest cinematic souvenir may belong to Mark Wahlberg.

The Academy Award nominee kept the prosthetic penis he wore as Dirk Diggler in Boogie Nights. "I used to keep it in my desk drawer," he said, "and I'd take it out and slap my friends in the face with it. I don't keep many things from my movies, but that just seemed to have personal significance."

The Hobbit: the Battle of the Five Armies

Director. Peter Jackson

Stars. Benedict Cumberbatch, Richard Armitage

●●●○○

Peter Jackson's wraps up the Hobbit trilogy with a cluttered film short on story, but long on action scenes. Greedy dragon Smaug (Benedict Cumberbatch) is dispatched, but now an epic battle between Dwarf king Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage), the Orcs and every other army in the area will decide the fate of Middle Earth. Heroes and villains abound, and while there isn't quite enough actual story to justify the two-hour-and-20-minute running time, the battle between good and evil is so primal, so elemental, you can't help but get involved in it.

Saying good night to the Museum tour

Movies. For Ben Stiller, The Secret of the Tomb is his last of the franchise

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Ben Stiller, centre, in Night at the Museum: The Secret of the Tomb. CONTRIBUTED

The third film in the Ben Stiller-starring Night at the Museum series, The Secret of the Tomb, has been billed as its final instalment. But given the success of the family-friendly franchise, isn't it a bit hasty to just call it like that? "I don't know. I mean, I'm pretty sure it is (the end) for me," Stiller says. "And that was one of the things going into it, by allowing it to be that, it allowed us to tell this story, which I think is my character sort of saying goodbye."

Of course, Stiller is savvy enough to know never to say never in Hollywood. "You never know these days with reboots and number fours," he jokes. "Maybe Edward Norton will show up in the next one. As the Hulk or something. It's one of those things where, I don't know, I won't say never, but it felt to me like that's what made sense to me at this time."

For the new instalment, Stiller and crew went to London's British Museum for filming, which was a treat in and of itself. "They had to be OK with what we were doing there because they'd never let anyone film there before," he says. "We didn't go to any special rooms or anything like that, but the Hall of Enlightenment there is pretty amazing. We basically got to spend a few nights there. The Rosetta Stone for me was the big thing that I was impressed with. That was our start mark — like, 'OK, let's go again, take two, back to the Rosetta Stone.' I even tweeted out a picture of me and Robin (Williams) standing next to it. Just the coolest thing ever."

And maybe this really is the end of the franchise, because Stiller has already taken home a keepsake. "I took the tablet home when we wrapped the movie. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed that something might happen," he says of the enchanted prop. "We'll see what happens, if anything comes to life in my house at night. I'm going to keep it in our little guest house. I have another cool memento from a movie, which are Tom Cruise's arms from Tropic Thunder, the Les Grossman arms? They're super-cool, these crazy, hairy arms with a crushed Diet Coke can in them. So maybe, who knows, the tablet might bring the arms to life at night."

Reality Bites turns 20

Speaking of sequels, has Stiller ever entertained the idea of revisiting the world of Reality Bites, his first film as a director that recently turned 20 years old? Well, not exactly.

- "We actually talked about possibly doing a TV series, but we didn't end up doing it," Stiller reveals.

How-to

Travelling with a purpose

1. Education, health, infrastructure, human rights — what cause is closest to your heart?
2. Research all the programs available. Decide whether to go with a well-known organization or something smaller that's just starting up.
3. Pay attention to where each group's money is going and how the local community benefits.
4. Think about how your skills and experience can best benefit your hosts. What do they need?
5. Talk to as many former volunteers as possible. What did they do? Would they do it again?
6. Be prepared to adapt — to living conditions, the weather, everything.
7. Visit CharityNavigator.org, Reliefweb.int, Idealist.org and GiveWell.org for more.

DOUG WALLACE

Deal

Cruise credit and upgrades

Silversea Cruises is offering from $500 to $1,000 of shipboard credit, plus free suite upgrades (up to a $1,800 value) for cruises to more than 30 destinations if you book by Dec. 31. This family-owned cruise company offers smaller, more nimble adventures on luxury ships that head to the Caribbean, Africa, Alaska, Australia, Asia and more. Visit Silversea.com and click on Silver Wave or call 954-687-9067. DOUG WALLACE

Planning

Understand your travel insurance

In the wake of the "million-dollar baby" from Saskatchewan that was born in Hawaii comes a report from the Travel Health Insurance Association. It states that more than 95 per cent of Canadians who make travel insurance claims receive the payout. The problem with the other 5 per cent is inadvertently (or deliberately) giving inaccurate health info to travel insurance providers. Get your doctor involved in your medical questionnaire to avoid the drama — not to mention the $1M. Visit thiaonline.com. TEXT: DOUG WALLACE, PHOTO: ISTOCK

Che's son offers revolutionary tour

Cuba. Hop on a Harley and write your own Motorcycle Diaries with this trip hosted by Ernesto Guevara

The tour stops in Santa Clara, site of a key battle during the Cuban revolution. ISTOCK

The youngest son of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara has opened an agency offering two-wheel tours of the Caribbean island nation on Harley-Davidsons, in a nod to his father's passion for motorcycles.

The Marxist guerrilla's storied motorbike journey through South America was immortalized in the 2004 film Motorcycle Diaries, directed by Brazil's Walter Salles and starring Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal. The trip, spanning from December 1951 to July 1952, took the 23-year-old revolutionary through Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela.

Now, Ernesto Guevara wants to honour his father's famous ride by giving visitors to Cuba a unique trip through the country on Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Prices start at $3,000 US per person and go up to $5,800 US for six- or nine-day trips. Airline costs are not included.

Itineraries give visitors a glimpse of "the varied landscapes of this beautiful island," while also offering "intimate contact with a part of the history of a unique revolution," according to the website of La Poderosa Tours, run by 49-year-old Ernesto, who is also a lawyer.

The company promises a luxury visit, including stays at five-star hotels and a visit to Che's mausoleum.

"We will make your trip a unique experience, an unforgettable memoir. We will personally take care of every detail during your journey," the website says.

The company's name comes from Che's own moniker for the British Norton 500 motorbike he rode through South America with Argentine companion Alberto Granado. That trip left a strong impression on

Che Guevara's son Ernesto Guevara. AFP FILE

the young guerrilla, who was preparing to graduate from medical school at the time.

The tour company goes to lengths to emphasize its revolutionary roots. One of the guides is Camilo Sanchez — son of Cuban guerrilla Antonio Sanchez Diaz, also known as "Marcos" — a fighter killed during a 1967 battle.

The tour also includes a visit to Che's base in colonial Havana and a trip to Santa Clara, a city 270 kilometers (168 miles) east of Havana that was the site of a key 1958 battle. AFP

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Visit Mayan archeological sites near Cancun, such as Chichen Itza, Tulum and Coba.

Adventure-seekers can swim with whale sharks, the largest species of fish in the world.

Cancun's waters are home to part of the Mesoamerican Reef.

Not just for spring break

Cancun. Destination offers something for foodies, volunteers and adventure-seekers

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

Cancun, which attracts more than 11 million visitors each year, is well-known for its party scene and nightlife.

But it's much more than a "spring break" destination, said Jesus Almaguer, CEO of the Cancun Convention and Visitors Bureau. Indeed, it's emerging as a destination for foodies, volunteers and adventure seekers.

"(Visitors) don't just want great beaches … they also want amazing food," he said.

It should be noted, however, that Cancun has three "Blue Flag" certified beaches, meaning they meet criteria for water quality, security and infrastructure.

The area offers four AAA Five Diamond award-winning restaurants, including Le Chique in Azul Sensatori, which recently received the award for the first time, and top eateries that focus on world cuisine and even Yucatecan fare — an ode to the destination's cultural roots.

Almaguer recommends La Habichuela Sunset for Yucatecan fare, Taco Queto in Holbox for some of the best local street food, and Las Nubes Hotel in Isla Holbox for tamarind margaritas and freshly caught ceviche. To taste Mexico's wines, head to the underground cellar in Xcaret.

Voluntourism is another big trend, and Cancun offers a variety of community programs for those who want to volunteer while on vacation. Tour operator Travel Future, for example, has several voluntour options, from making piñatas with intellectually disadvantaged youth to releasing sea turtle hatchlings into the sea.

More visitors are looking to get off the resort these days.

Did you know?

- Cancun has only been in existence since 1970.
- Cancun is a Mayan word that means "nest of serpents."
- More whale sharks gather in Cancun than any other place in the world.
- Cancun's waters are home to part of the Mesoamerican Reef, the second largest reef in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.
- Cancun's sand is made from crushed coral and is cool to the touch, so you won't burn your feet.

"Many visitors are now planning trips to Isla Mujeres to experience a laid-back Caribbean island or to Puerto Morelos to explore the small fishing village and taste the freshly caught seafood it is known for," Almaguer said. "Also, Isla Holbox is becoming a romantic getaway for couples who want to get away from it all and spend alone time with incredible island views."

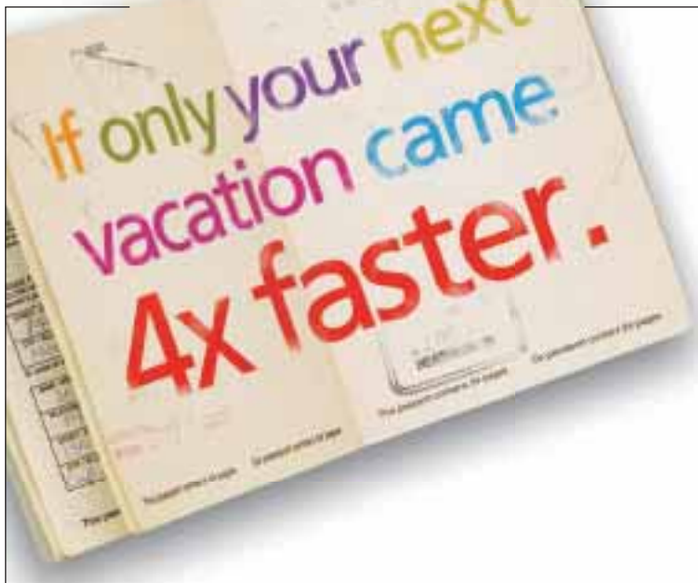
Isla Holbox is a small island about two hours north of Cancun, home to several boutique hotels (you won't find a hotel with more than 40 rooms), sand-paved roads, and a laid-back Caribbean vibe — there are no cars here, only golf carts and bikes. Holbox is also known for its calm waters (ideal for windsurfing) and the annual whale shark migration in its waters.

Adventure-seekers can swim with whale sharks, the largest species of fish in the world.

"These fish are the size of a school bus, yet are not aggressive and only feed on plankton," Almaguer said.

Cancun is becoming known as a romantic getaway for couples.

Holbox is known for its calm waters, which are ideal for windsurfing. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CANCUN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU



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Presents for every point in the pursuit

Career. Need gift ideas for the job-seeker in your life? Consider the many stages of the hunt

MICHELLE SAMMUT
TalentEgg.ca

Students, young professionals and life-long employees alike are building their career stories. This year, give gifts that will help them realize their potential.

The goal-setting stage
Every journey has to start somewhere, and a career path is no exception. Goal-setting can be helpful to those starting their job hunt: The technique can help guide professional aspirations and inspire tangible actions.

A great gift for someone at this stage of the job hunt would be a leather-bound notebook — perfect for pinning down goals and mapping out action plans. Look for a notebook that can easily fit into the pocket of a briefcase, handbag or backpack. Having your goals on hand can be a great reminder of all that you hope to achieve.

The networking stage
When you're looking for meaningful work, networking is a smart way to get cracking.

Informational interviews are a useful networking opportunity for anyone looking gain valuable insight into a possible career path, field or employer.

These meetings give a job-seeker an opportunity to explore different options, build professional relationships and ask career-related questions to someone working in their area of interest.

One gift idea for someone in the networking stage would be a coffee shop gift card.

Informational interviews are meant to be quick, casual meetings scheduled during the workday — a 20-minute conversation that goes well with a warm beverage.

The interview stage
Landing an interview is a major achievement, and feeling prepared for the big day can play a big part in eventual success.

A great gift idea for someone at this stage of the job hunt? A tablet.

Regardless of industry, employer or job level, making a good impression in an interview is at the top of everyone's wish list. A tablet is an innovative and memorable way to showcase who you are, what you've done and what you're capable of.

Creative job? Load your digital portfolio onto your device for easy presentation.

Results-driven industry? Use visuals (like graphs or charts) to demonstrate your achievements.

So long as the information being presented is relevant to the conversation, using a tablet can help to support your points.

The new job stage

Whether someone has been at a job for a few days or a few months, being set for success is key.

- One idea? A portable battery charger can be a much-needed confidence boost for someone who is always on the go. Relying on mobile devices is part of the modern job hunt, and with one of these on hand, you can access all the resources you need (directions, contact info, urgent emails) no matter their battery life.
- A sleek business card holder can enhance a job-seeker's personal image. Having a safe, secure place to keep business cards can help to ensure they're always prepared to network, whether at a formal event or an impromptu meeting.

What better gift than one that gives your best pals a life boost? ISTOCK

Making your first day on the job work for you

Career. Have you got the new job jitters? Don't call it quitters!

LAUREN MARINIGH
TalentEgg.ca

If you're as calm as a cucumber on Day One of your new job, your employers might get the impression that you aren't very interested in the role. A little nervous energy can help show you've got a positive and energetic attitude. ISTOCK

Let's face it, whether you're starting a new job or starting your first day of school, first-day nerves can make every challenge just a little bit harder to face.

Fear of the unknown can be incredibly intimidating. Will you like the job? Will people like you? Will you make friends? What if you get lost? With a million questions running through your head, it's easy to get distracted and make mistakes.

Ready to calm your nerves and ace your first day?

Be prepared

Make sure you have all the things you will need in order to be successful. This can include your paperwork for human resources, a lunch in case you can't find something that suits your palate nearby, a pen and notebook in case you need to jump right into things — obvious and useful resources that help you manage some common curveballs.

If you aren't entirely sure what to bring on your first day, shoot an email to the hiring manager and ask. They'll probably appreciate your enthusiasm.

Knowing exactly where you are going and who you are meeting will also help. Map your route ahead of time to get to work, and leave extra time in case there are traffic or transit issues. You may even want to do a test run of your route before the first day if you don't know how long it's going to take.

Know what to wear

This is a common hang-up when you start any new role. If you didn't have a chance to observe the dress code when you were visiting for an interview, ask human resources beforehand.

This will help settle your anxiety about what's appropriate and ensure that you don't show up underdressed.

It's absolutely alright to overdress on your first day. Once you're more comfortable with the dress code, you can mix up your wardrobe to reflect a little more of your personal taste.

Answer the unanswered

Have questions? Get answers. Whether you need to do some research, talk to someone within the organization, or even contact the hiring manager again, don't be afraid to pursue your questions.

It's totally natural to have questions when you start a new job — and since every organization is different, there's no such thing as a stupid question. People don't expect you to know everything when you're new, so ask away.

Many questions can be answered by doing a simple Google search or spending more time on the company's website. With this approach, you'll learn more about the organization, too.

Don't forget to breathe

You interviewed for this position, or company, and you deserve a spot here.

- They would not have hired you otherwise. Remind yourself of that, and give yourself a pep talk to get through the doors on your first day.
- Remember that your first days and weeks are meant for you to learn about everything. If you go in with an open mind, and give yourself permission to learn as you go, you'll quickly find that your nerves take a back seat.

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We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Dessert or host gift.
Peanut Butter Rum Balls

This recipe makes about four dozen rum balls. EMILY RICHARDS

Did you ever wonder how delicious rum balls would be with peanut butter in them?

Well, wonder no more. These have tasty peanut butter and rum for a sweet and memorable treat.

1. In a large bowl, combine icing sugar, cookie crumbs, butter, coconut, peanuts, peanut butter, sugar and rum until well blended.

2. Shape mix into 3/4-inch (2 cm) balls and roll in granulated sugar, sprinkles or chopped almonds. Place in airtight container lined with waxed paper and refrigerate. EMILY RICHARDS

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups (625 ml) icing sugar
- 2 cups (500 ml) chocolate cookie crumbs
- 1 cup (250 ml) butter, softened
- 1 cup (250 ml) flaked coconut
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) finely chopped peanuts
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) smooth natural peanut butter
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) rum
- Granulated sugar, sprinkles and chopped almonds, to garnish

When tradition trumps trends

Christmas Shortbread.
The quintessential holiday cookie comes together quickly and can be personalized

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

I make this very simple shortbread each year and have done different things with it.

I have added vanilla extract, dried lavender, crystallized ginger, grated orange rind, coloured sugar and even dipped it in chocolate. To dip them in chocolate, for example, melt your favourite milk or dark chocolate and dip half of the cookie into the chocolate. Return the cookie to the baking sheet for the chocolate to set and then store them in the refrigerator to be sure the chocolate stays firm after setting.

No matter what I do with it, it still is a family favourite.

1. In a stand mixer or large bowl using hand mixer, beat butter until it looks white and very fluffy. Beat in icing sugar and vanilla. Beat in 1 cup (250 ml) of flour at a time until it becomes very stiff and then using hands bring the dough together and knead slightly to make smooth dough.

2. Divide dough in half and roll out on floured surface to desired thickness (I like mine a bit thicker) and using your favourite cookie cutters cut out shapes and place on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Repeat with remaining dough and continue to re-roll the dough until you use it up.

3. Bake at 375 F (190 C) for about 12 minutes or until edges are just a hint of golden brown. If you like very white baked shortbread, bake them at 350 F (180 C) for a bit longer or until they are just firm to the touch. Remove and let cool completely.

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) butter, very soft but not melted
- 1 cup (250 ml) icing sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) vanilla extract
- 4 cups (1 l) all purpose flour

This recipe makes about 5 dozen cookies (depends on size of cookie cutter you use). EMILY RICHARDS

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in about 30 minutes or less

Pour the festive season in a glass

This Eggnog recipe serves 10. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In a large saucepan over medium-high heat, combine the milk and vanilla bean. Bring just to a boil, then let stand off the heat for 10 minutes. Scrape the seeds from the vanilla bean into the milk and discard the pod.

2. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the egg yolks, sugar and cornstarch until light and lemon coloured, about 2 minutes. With the mixer on, slowly add about half the warm milk in a stream. Add the egg mixture to the remaining milk in the saucepan. Set the pan over moderately low heat. Stirring constantly with a wooden spoon, heat until the mixture coats a spoon when you run your finger through it and registers 160 F, 15 to 20 minutes.

3. Quickly strain the custard through a mesh strainer into a clean bowl. Stir in the cream and bourbon, then cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until well chilled.

4. To serve, ladle into cups and top each portion with freshly grated nutmeg.

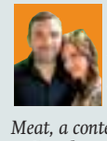
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Eggnog Ingredients

- 4 cups whole milk
- 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise
- 12 large egg yolks
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 3/4 cup bourbon, brandy or rum
- Freshly grated nutmeg, to garnish

Food around the world

Cambodia (vegan rating: 7/10)



MEAT AND VEG
meatandvegontheroad.tumblr.com
Photos: Suzi Staheli
Words: Eoin Weldon

Meat, a contented carnivorous writer, documents his and his vegan fiancée Veg's dietary journey as they travel and munch their way across four continents.

Veg: From fascinating Siem Reap in the north to lively Phnom Penh and the beaches of the south, this place has something for everyone. The national diet was decent, varied and mostly vegan friendly. Meals like Veg's stir-fry of morning glory, cauliflower, bean sprouts, cabbage and onion in a garlic soy sauce were easy to come by and up to her taste standards.

Meat: On the outskirts of Angkor Wat I decided to try the famous national dish Amok from a humble dilapidated street restaurant. It's a fish curry rich in spices and laden with coconut milk, which boasts subtle and unusual flavours. It was delicious and memorably served in a hollowed-out green coconut with white, fluffy rice as a side dish.

4 SPORTS

Theft

Red Bull's F1 trophies found dumped in lake

Some of the trophies stolen from the factory of Formula One team Red Bull have been have been found in a lake after being spotted by a member of the public.

More than 60 trophies were reported missing from the factory at Milton Keynes, southern England, on Dec. 6 after approximately six men used a vehicle to ram the front entrance.

Police say "about 20 trophies have been recovered" from a lake some 112 kilometres away, on Monday.

Red Bull won the Formula One constructors' and drivers' championships from 2010-13 and team principal Christian Horner said it will probably now limit access to the factory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World Cup bids

Prosecutor loses appeal vs. FIFA

Russia and Qatar appear to be the big winners on the day American prosecutor Michael Garcia lost his appeal against FIFA.

Garcia had objected to ethics judge Joachim Eckert's summary of his World Cup bid investigation into the 2018 and 2022 hosting votes, claiming there were "numerous materially incomplete and erroneous representations" of his report. The appeals committee of soccer's governing body ruled Tuesday that Garcia was unable to challenge Eckert's summary because they were only Eckert's opinions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Jets' Mark Scheifele, left, scores against Sabres goaltender Michal Neuvirth and Brian Flynn at the MTS Centre on Tuesday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scheifele lifts Jets past streaking Sabres

NHL. Pavelec makes his 300th start a successful one as Buffalo is denied a fifth straight win

On Tuesday

Jets	Sabres
5	1

Mark Scheifele scored a pair of goals and added an assist as the Winnipeg Jets halted the Buffalo Sabres' four-game winning streak with a 5-1 victory on Tuesday.

Michael Frolik and Evander Kane each had a goal and an assist, while Chris Thorburn also scored for Winnipeg (16-10-6). Frolik's goal was short-handed, while Kane found the back of the net on the power play.

Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec made 27 saves in his 300th career start as Winnipeg outshot the Sabres 36-28.

Buffalo (13-17-2), which got a power-play goal from defenceman Nikita Zadorov, was coming off a 5-4 shootout win at home over the Ottawa Senators on Monday night.

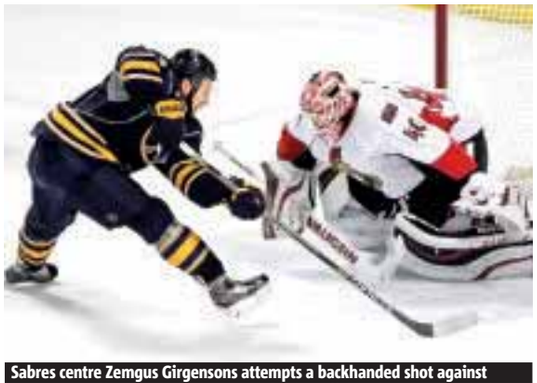
Michal Neuvirth stopped 31 shots in net for the Sabres.

The win was the first for the Jets in their four-game homestand. They lost 4-3 in overtime to Colorado and 4-1 to Anaheim last week and will host Boston on Friday.

Buffalo scored the only goal in the first period, but Winnipeg responded with three goals in under five minutes in the second to take a 3-1 lead heading into the third period.

Earlier in the day, Jets head coach Paul Maurice announced that second-year defenceman Jacob Trouba is out until February with an undisclosed upper-body injury.

Maurice said it was a "pre-existing condition," but wasn't related to the neck injury Trouba suffered last season. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sabres centre Zemgus Girgensons attempts a backhanded shot against Senators goalie Robin Lehner on Monday in Buffalo. Girgensons is scoring with the Sabres and Latvia as his countrymen have propelled him into the lead of the NHL all-star game fan vote. GARY WIEPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Latvian love helps Girgensons maintain lead in all-star vote

Latvia is in love with Buffalo Sabres forward Zemgus Girgensons, who remains the runaway leader in the NHL all-star game fan vote.

The second-year player had nearly 1.1 million votes Tuesday. That's nearly double the total of each of the next two forwards: Chicago's Patrick Kane (586,310) and Jonathan Toews (573,198).

Girgensons' total is more than half the two million population of his native Latvia, from where the NHL says he's attracted more than 80 per cent of his votes.

Other top vote getters

- **Goaltenders.** Corey Crawford, CHI, 501,259; Carey Price, MTL, 391,671.
- **Defenceman.** Duncan Keith, CHI, 567,184; P.K. Subban, MTL, 460,966.

The only limit on voting is fans can use the same device no more than 10 times a day.

The 2012 first-round draft pick leads Buffalo with nine goals and is second with 17 points.

Dallas forward Tyler Seguin leads the NHL with 23 goals and 38 points, but ranks ninth among forwards with 214,183 votes.

Voting ends Jan. 1. The game will be played at Columbus on Jan. 25. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former WADA chair

Panel 'not there to whitewash anything': Pound

Former World Anti-Doping Agency chairman Dick Pound vowed exemption Tuesday as he leads an investigation into allegations of systematic doping in Russia.

"We're there to get the facts," said Pound. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

League Cup

Chelsea beats Derby County to reach semis

Chelsea swept into the semifinals of the English League Cup on Tuesday, goals by Eden Hazard, Filipe Luis and Andre Schuerrle in a 3-1 win at a second-tier Derby County, managed by former England coach Steve McClaren. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Terry of Chelsea applauds the fans after beating Derby County 3-1 in the League Cup's quarter-final at Pride Park Stadium on Tuesday in Derby, England. LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal legend

Henry retires at 37

Former Arsenal and France striker Thierry Henry announced his retirement on Tuesday, ending a 20-year career in which he earned a place in the pantheon of modern greats.

The 37-year-old Henry was a member of the France teams that won the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays

Morrow leaves for Padres: Report

Brandon Morrow formalized his departure from Toronto on Tuesday, reportedly signing an incentive-laden, one-year deal with the San Diego Padres.

Morrow spent five years in Toronto, marked initially by promise, but eventually derailed by injury. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A-Rod moved off hot corner

Yankees. GM Cashman hopes vet becomes a 'tremendous DH'

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman says Alex Rodriguez's days as an everyday fielder are over. At best, he hopes A-Rod will be New York's full-time designated hitter.

Cashman confirmed Tuesday that Chase Headley will be the Yankees' starting third baseman after he and the team agreed to a $52 million, four-year contract this week.

Coming off a season-long suspension for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labour contract, Rodriguez will be relegated to a DH role in manager Joe Girardi's lineup. Cashman said the three-time MVP will have to compete with Martin Prado for time as Headley's backup at third.

"I can't expect Alex to be anything," Cashman said during a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

"I've got to think the worst and hope for the best. Even before the suspension, he wasn't the same player at third base on the defensive or offensive side. And that was before the suspension.

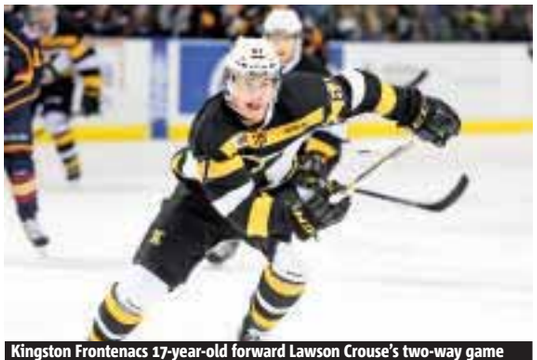
"And now he's been out of the game for a year. He's approaching 40 years of age. And just to automatically assume given his circumstances that he'll be able to plug right in, play third as an everyday guy and hold up and be productive, I think that would be dangerous thinking from my perspective, in the seat I'm sitting in."

Rodriguez turns 40 in July and has not played a full season since 2007 because of leg injuries, operations on both hips and the suspension.

"So given all that circumstance, we look forward to him hopefully solidifying himself as a tremendous DH for us, and if he shows he has retained athleticism, then he can play third as a choice when Joe decides to give Headley a rest," Cashman said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez watches a grand slam home run he hit at Yankee Stadium in New York. Yankees general manager Brian Cashman says Rodriguez's days as an everyday fielder are over and he hopes A-Rod will be New York's full-time designated hitter. BILL KOSTROUN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Young Crouse's balance could suit Team Canada



Kingston Frontenacs 17-year-old forward Lawson Crouse's two-way game could land him a spot on the Canadian junior team. AARON BELL/OHL IMAGES

Lawson Crouse looks around the ice and knows he's in unfamiliar territory. The youngest player in Canada's world junior camp hasn't skated alongside many of these teammates before because he's only 17.

But on an older team that will feature more than a dozen 19-year-olds, Crouse is part of the youth contingent that must factor in for Canada to live up to expectations as the favourite on home ice. Aside from projected No. 1 pick Connor McDavid, Crouse is the only other 2015 NHL draft-eligible player at camp but isn't intimidated by that.

"It's a different experience for myself, but I think I'm making the most of it right now," Crouse said. "Being a bigger body kind of helps. I'm bigger out there, so I kind of have a little bit more of an advantage to the smaller guys."

Crouse, who is six-foot-four and 211 pounds, brings a strong two-way game that could land him a solid spot on the 22-man roster. While this Canadian lineup is long on pure skill and speed, Crouse prides himself on his defensive game.

"I've figured out that it's not always about offence, but you have to manage both sides of the game," the Mount Brydges, Ont., native said Tuesday. "I'm obviously not going to be the guy that puts up 100 points. I'm going to do what I can and contribute all over the ice."

Last spring Crouse led Canada's under-18 summer team to gold at the Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup by scoring a team-high six goals. Crouse also scored the game-winner to help Canada win bronze at the U-18 world championships in April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"He's physically strong for 17 years old, skates well, plays with poise, and we like what he brings to the table." Canadian junior team head coach Benoit Groulx on Lawson Crouse

2015 Toyota Camry Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, five-passenger midsize sedan
- **Engine.** 2.5-litre four-cylinder with electric motor (156 hp gas only, 200 gas/electric combined)
- **Transmission.** CVT, (continuously variable)
- **Price.** $28,410 base, $34,500 as tested

Market position

While the Prius lineup has expanded with a wagon, plug-in and subcompact models, the Camry remains focused on buyers who prefer their hybrids to look and feel more like conventional cars.

Points

• In the top XLE trim, the hybrid costs more than the gas-powered four-cylinder XLE, but slightly below the six-cylinder model.
• All trims include Bluetooth, rearview camera, dual-zone automatic climate control, automatic headlamps, and a power driver's seat.
• Selectable Eco mode reduces power and climate control to boost fuel efficiency.

The interior is a huge improvement over the bland 2014 model.

Interesting features

Low-speed electric-only driving mode, standard rearview camera, available text-to-speech capabilities, blind-spot monitor, cross-traffic alert, and wireless phone charging.

5 DRIVE

Hybrid a handsome handler

Review. Updated styling, interior and suspension help Camry look and drive better than previous model

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH OR CONTRIBUTED

Once considered so exotic that you could almost stop traffic by driving one, gas-electric hybrids are now commonplace. And while cars like Toyota's Prius still scream, "I'm a hybrid!" there are now many conventional-looking versions, including the Camry Hybrid.

Both the Camry and Camry Hybrid have been extensively updated for 2015, with new interior and exterior styling that is a considerable improvement on the previous bland design, plus tweaks to the suspension for better ride and handling.

The Camry Hybrid uses a 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine that's mated to an electric motor and an automatic, continuously variable transmission (CVT) that contains belts and pulleys instead of gears.

The system seamlessly switches between gasoline-only operation, electric-only, or a combination of the two, depending on what's needed at the time.

And you don't plug it in. Instead, the battery recharges by capturing the energy generated when you're slowing down.

When you come to a stop, the gasoline engine shuts off, so you're not using fuel or creating emissions while waiting for the light to change. Don't worry: The climate control, stereo, lights, and other essentials stay on.

The Camry Hybrid comes in three trim lines, starting with the LE at $28,410 and going up to my top-line tester, the XLE, at $34,500. That's $3,710 more than the conventional four-cylinder XLE, and as with any hybrid, it will take a while to make up the difference in fuel savings.

Combined ratings for the four-cylinder Camry are 8.4 L/100, while the hybrid is rated at 5.9.

Overall, the Camry's improvements are impressive: It drives better, with quicker steering response. And while the hybrid's ride is a little harsher than its gas sibling, it's still comfortable.

The interior is roomy (although the battery chews up some of the trunk space), and the XLE throws in such upscale features as navigation, heated leather seats, and a blind-spot monitor.

If you want hybrid performance with traditional looks and features, this one's a must on the test-drive list.

Compare

1 Kia Optima Hybrid
Base price: $30,095
The stylish Optima uses a conventional six-speed transmission instead of a CVT for sportier driving performance.

2 Ford Fusion Hybrid
Base price:$28,699
In its plug-in hybrid version, the Fusion's fuel use is as low as 2.7 L/100 km.

3 Honda Accord Hybrid
Base price: $31,773
A roomy, comfy model that costs more than the Camry but has better fuel efficiency.

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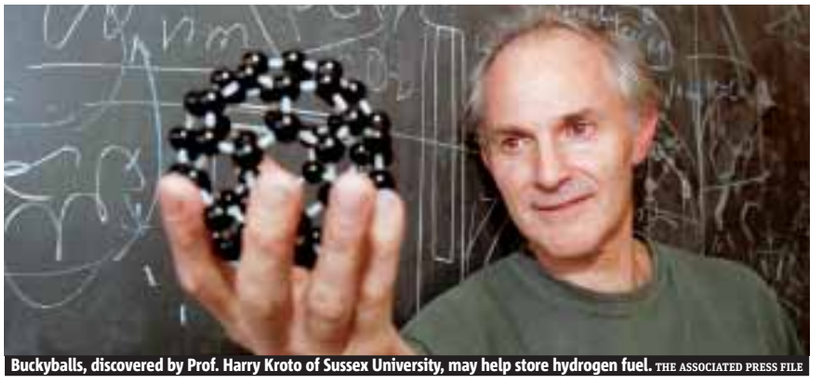

Buckyballs, discovered by Prof. Harry Kroto of Sussex University, may help store hydrogen fuel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Graphene, microbes and buckyballs fuel the future

Autopilot. Scientists are working overtime to find innovative and renewable alternate fuels for our vehicles

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The people with big brains and lab coats are busier than ever, exploring some pretty freaky territory.

Let's take a look at three notable areas of exploration, each of which could apply to the automobile and transportation scene.

Super-thin graphene

About 10 years ago, scientists discovered a new form of carbon graphite, which they called graphene.

It is the world's thinnest known material — exactly one atom thick. It's also 200 times stronger than steel and the world's best conductor of electricity.

A study published in the journal Nature speculated that a membrane made of graphene could be used to isolate protons (by their nature, electrically charged) from the hydrogen available in air.

A fuel-cell vehicle could then be electrically driven, as all fuel-cell vehicles are, but without the cumbersome part of storing hydrogen on board or requiring a complex refuelling infrastructure system.

Industrious microbes

Cloning ourselves or bringing back woolly mammoths and Neanderthals are just two of the fun things we might be able to do with further advances in genome mapping and manipulation.

But George Church, one of world's top genome experts, is particularly pumped about modifying microbes to create transportation fuel.

Microbes have already demonstrated that they are able to convert wasted carbon dioxide into usable fuels, but Church wants to modify them so they are super good at it, and easily replicated, so the conversion could be done on a grand and economical scale.

"Making new petroleum should be as simple and straightforward as brewing beer," he told The Economist Technology Quarterly.

Super-tough boron buckyballs

Buckyball is the nickname for a very interesting structure called buckminsterfullerene — a tiny molecular structure made up of 60 carbon atoms arranged in pentagons and hexagons.

It was so named because the architect, Richard Buckminster Fuller, used these shapes for his famous domes, like the one he created for Expo '67 in Montreal.

First discovered in 1985, the carbon buckyballs excited scientists, because they are hollow inside, super stable on the outside, and very tiny.

Last summer, researchers built the first ever buckyball made entirely of boron molecules.

Unlike their carbon counterparts, the boron buckyballs like to react with each other and other things.

This means they can be connected in chains and would bond with hydrogen, which had the researchers speculating they might one day be used to store hydrogen.

Hydrogen is tough to store because it is so light. It needs to be kept under pressure and condensed to be of any use as a transportation fuel, and that takes energy and a bulky infrastructure.

Here's hoping something incorporating boron buckyballs becomes the alternative — both for the triumph of science and for letting us say "boron buckyballs" out loud.

The Toyota Mirai's fuel cells could one day be powered by graphene. AFP

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AUGMENTED REALITY

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You have the gift of the gab and can get just about anyone to do just about anything for you. Try not to abuse the situation or you may have some uncomfortable questions to answer later.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to be too open about what you think today or you may let slip something that could be used against you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Someone will try to persuade you to part with some of your cash today. Turn them down. Just because they've had a good idea does not mean you have to finance it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You seem to be in one of your upbeat moods, but the planets warn you could be a bit too optimistic for your own good. Remember, if you start a new task you must see it through.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You won't be short of advice from loved ones today but you don't need it. You know what you need and you know where to find it, so ignore everyone else and follow your instincts.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's a long time since you have felt this good and you should make the most of it. If you have a creative talent, now is the time to get serious about it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be wary of those who offer you something for nothing. They may not want a payment for it now but it will give them lots of leverage later on when they want something from you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you have something on your mind, let others know. Yes, you may make more of it than you should but that is preferable to pretending everything is OK.

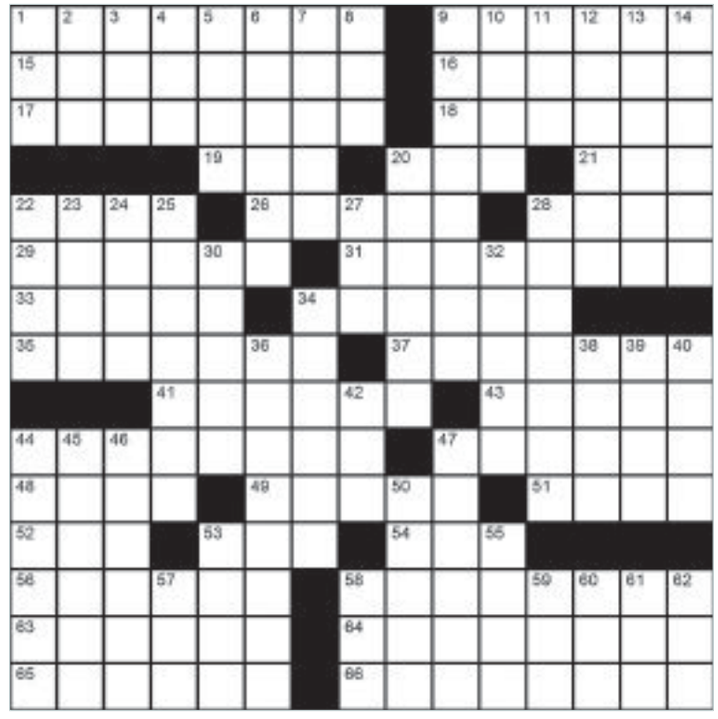
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You're in a mood when the thought of failure does not enter your head and because of that you could succeed beyond your expectations — or fall flat.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
As Mercury moves into your birth sign today you are advised to put a name to your dreams. If there is something you desire now is as good a time as any to be open about it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your imaginative powers are at their height. Over the next 24 hours, don't dismiss an idea because it sounds crazy.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Anyone who dares to disagree with you today is going to wish they had kept their opinions to themselves. You are in no mood for criticism, not even from those whose input you value. You know what you are doing.

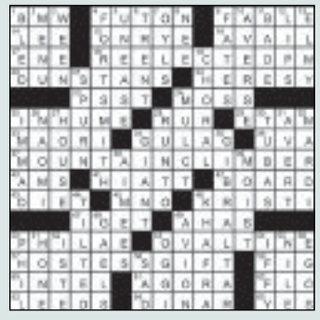
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Festival of Lights
9. Canadian boots company
15. Somewhat: 3 wds.
16. Mid-size sedan by Kia
17. Classic
18. Sportswear brand
19. Classic coat
20. Mr. Johnson
21. __ generis (Unique, in Latin)
22. Celtic language
26. The 'L' of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz author L. Frank Baum's name
28. Tricks
29. Run by the other runner again
31. Immortal flower, to a poet
33. Entrap
34. Decorative perfume bottle
35. Climbing wall plant's 'grasper'
37. Gets the snow off the walkway
41. PEI's provincial tree: 2 wds.
43. Ms. Couric
44. Giant polar bear of Inuit folklore
47. Take to be true
48. Grad
49. Mr. Welles
51. Bathroom basin
52. Natalie Cole's father
53. Christmas carol: "The Holly and the __"
54. Rug of Scandinavia
56. "Grand Canyon" Canadian band, Timber __
58. Endearing
63. Status early in a baseball inning: 2 wds.
64. Guards
65. 1998 Winter Olympics city in Japan
66. 'Historic Fort Town on the St. Lawrence River' in Ontario

Down
1. Mafia killing
2. Singer Ms. DiFranco
3. '60/'70s war zone, informally
4. Expend
5. Sort of seaweed
6. Positions oneself to say "Will you marry me?"
7. Analyze
8. Fellows
9. Saskatchewan town near the Montana border
10. Receptive
11. Sport-__ (Versatile vehicle)
12. Guitar manufacturer
13. Quantity
14. Dapper
20. Reversible patterned fabric
22. Formerly, to a poet
23. Ms. Russo
24. Bridge
25. Man's musical membrane?
27. Prefix that means 'Bad'
28. Solicit campaign votes
30. More dry
32. Chess pieces
34. Like that stuff used in baked goods
36. "That sounds marvelous, sign me up!": 3 wds.
38. Decorative case
39. Outline
40. Search
42. "A Woman's Worth" singer ...her initials-sharers
44. Town of southern Alberta
45. Vancouver-born actress Ms. Huffman
46. Eggnog ingredient
47. Unspecified individual
50. Command
53. Lady Antebellum's "_ __ to You"
55. Fine things
57. __ constrictor
58. Egyptian cobra
59. Curve
60. Prefix to 'hazard'
61. Sanction
62. Ouest's opposite

Yesterday's Crossword



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Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

			2	3				
			6		5			
3	9	5	8			4		
1							8	
6				4				1
4							3	
2	4	8	3			5		
			1		8			
			4	6				

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Yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	9	2	5	6	1	4	8
1	2	5	4	7	8	9	6	3
4	6	8	9	3	1	2	5	7
2	9	6	7	8	5	3	1	4
8	3	1	6	4	2	7	9	5
7	5	4	3	1	9	6	8	2
5	8	7	1	9	3	4	2	6
9	4	2	8	6	7	5	3	1
6	1	3	5	2	4	8	7	9

HYUNDAI®

5-year Comprehensive Limited Warranty

BOXING WEEK EVENT

DECEMBER 15th TO JANUARY 2nd

GET UP TO $7,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω]
Amount available on the 2015 Genesis Coupe 3.8L GT

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 96 MONTHS[†] ON SELECT MODELS

GET UP TO AN ADDITIONAL $1,250 IN BOXING WEEK PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[◄] ON SELECT 2014 MODELS!

★★★★★ AWARDED THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CRASH SAFETY RATING[▲] U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

5-Star Overall Crash Safety Rating[▲]

HWY: 8.2L/100 KM
CITY: 11.4L/100 KM[▼]

Limited model shown♦

2014 SANTA FE SPORT 2.0T SE

$3,250 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω] + $1,250 IN ADDITONAL BOXING WEEK PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[◄] = $4,500 TOTAL PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

2014 Accent "Highest Ranked Small Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.[ΔΔ]"

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.5L/100 KM[▼]

GLS model shown♦

2014 ACCENT 4DR L

OWN IT FOR ONLY $33 WEEKLY | 0% FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS[†]

ACCENT 4 DOOR L, MANUAL. **SELLING PRICE: $13,680.** $1,500 PRICE ADJUSTMENT[Ω], DELIVERY AND DESTINATION INCLUDED. PLUS GST/PST.

OR $1,000 IN ADDITIONAL BOXING WEEK PRICE ADJUSTMENTS ON ALL OTHER TRIMS[◄]

2015 BEST NEW FAMILY CAR (OVER $30,000)

AJAC www.ajac.ca
AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

HWY: 7.4L/100 KM
CITY: 10.4L/100 KM[▼]

Sport 2.0T model shown♦

THE ALL-NEW 2015 SONATA GL

OWN IT FOR ONLY $59 WEEKLY | 0% FINANCING FOR 96 MONTHS[†]

SONATA GL. **SELLING PRICE: $24,580.** $1,250 PRICE ADJUSTMENT[Ω], DELIVERY AND DESTINATION INCLUDED. PLUS GST/PST.

2014 Elantra "Highest Ranked Compact Car in Initial Quality in the U.S.[ΔΔ]"

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 9.7L/100 KM[▼]

Limited model shown♦

2015 ELANTRA L

WAS ~~$17,630~~ | NOW $12,995[‡] | INCLUDES $4,635 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[Ω]

VISIT HYUNDAICANADA.COM FOR DETAILS ON OUR ENTIRE LINE-UP!

Dealers may charge additional fees for administration of up to $499. Charges may vary by Dealer.

5 YEAR WARRANTY
5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty[††]
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.™
HyundaiCanada.com

®The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Cash price of $12,995 available on all new 2015 Elantra L 6-speed Manual models. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Accent 4 Door L 6-speed manual/2015 Sonata GL Auto with an annual finance rate of 0% for 96 months. Weekly payments are $33/$59. $0 down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,595/$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Financing example: 2014 Accent 4 Door L 6-speed manual for $13,680 at 0% per annum equals $33 weekly for 96 months for a total obligation of $13,680. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $13,680. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,595, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $4,635/$3,250/$7,000 available on in stock 2015 Elantra L 6-speed manual/2014 Santa Fe Sport SE/2015 Genesis Coupe 3.8L GT. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ◄Boxing week price adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Boxing week price adjustments of up to $1,250/$1,000 available on in stock 2014 Santa Fe Sport SE/2014 Accent 4-Door models. Boxing price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Elantra Limited/2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD/2014 Accent 4 Door GLS Auto/2015 Sonata Limited are $27,380/$41,030/$20,880/$32,830. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,795/$1,595/$1,695, levies and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Elantra 2.0 Limited (HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T SE Limited AWD (HWY 8.2L/100KM; City 11.4L/100KM); 2014 Accent 4-Door GLS Auto (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.5L/100KM); 2015 Sonata 2.0T Ultimate (HWY 7.4L/100KM; City 10.4L/100KM); are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΔThe Hyundai Accent/Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small/compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality StudySM (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ▲Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). ‡†♦ΩOffers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.